

**A FURTHER RECORD OF *APATURINA ERMINEA* (CRAMER)
(LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE: APATURINAE)
FROM AUSTRALIA**

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Abstract

A second confirmed male of *Apaturina erminea* (Cramer) is recorded from Iron Range, Queensland and an Australian specimen illustrated for the first time.

Introduction

Apaturina erminea (Cramer) occurs from Maluku in eastern Indonesia to the Solomon Islands, including Papua New Guinea and northeastern Australia, where it is known only from Iron Range, on Cape York Peninsula in northern Queensland (Braby 2000).

Wood (1981) recorded the capture of the first Australian specimen, a male, while Braby (2000) noted that very few specimens had been collected, including a female by J. Young. To date, no Australian specimen has been illustrated.

Discussion

A further male (Figs 1-2) was collected by the author on 21 May 2002, at the edge of the track leading to Mt Lamond at Iron Range. It was collected as it landed on a tree trunk at a height of 2.5 m from the ground, in full sunshine, at 1330 h. The behaviour of this specimen and the circumstances of its capture were very similar to those described by Wood (1981) and it is likely that the two specimens were collected within 100 m of each other.

Some nine subspecies are currently recognised but the subspecific status of the Australian population has not been determined. The present male differs from those of *A. e. papuana* Ribbe, illustrated by Braby (2000), in having less blue on the upperside of the hind wing and a darker underside (Figs 1-2). So far, only a brown female form is known from Australia, whereas two colour forms occur in Papua New Guinea (Braby 2000). Further material is needed to resolve the subspecific identity of the Iron Range population, which might be distinct.

The larval food plant has not been recorded but is believed to belong to the genus *Celtis* (Ulmaceae) (Braby 2000).

References

- BRABY, M.F. 2000. *Butterflies of Australia: their identification, biology and distribution*. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood; xx + 976 pp.
- WOOD, G.A. 1981. First record of *Apaturina erminea* (Cramer) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) from Australia. *Australian Entomological Magazine* 8(1): 16.



Figs 1-2. *Apaturina erminea* (Cramer); male from Mt Lamond, Iron Range, northern Qld, 21 May 2002: (1) upperside; (2) underside.